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The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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Vol. 4 No. 3

Fifth Freedom

April 14, 1974

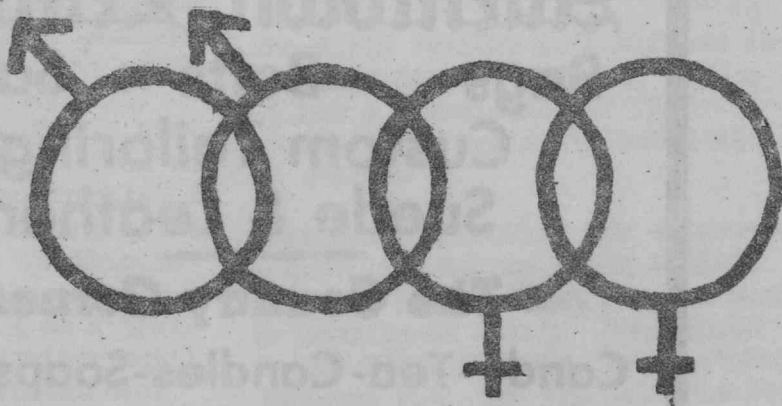
Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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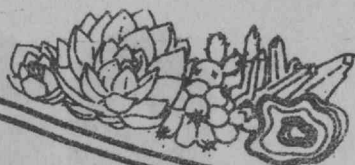
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TO THE EDITOR:

TRAITOR

I have been called a traitor to the black people because I am a member of the MATTACHINE SOCIETY. As a homosexual I am oppressed as any white homosexual is...When you are labeled a homosexual they don't care if you are black or white. In the society in which we live that means you are a threat to their way of life, and we are labeled sick, which means they can pass laws to protect themselves from us sick people, even if these laws take away some of our constitutional rights...

I feel it is every homosexual's right to live his or her life any way they see fit as long as they are not hurting or forcing anyone to take part in any of their sex acts...

Since I am black are you telling me that I have to sit back and let both the white and black lawmaker take some of my rights away, without speaking out against this. Are you telling me, I should sit back and reap the rewards from the fight of the white homosexuals? If this is what you are saying to me, then I say up yours. If this is what makes me a traitor in your eyes, then YES, damn I am a traitor and I will be a traitor until I have all of my constitutional rights!

Claude Gary

The FIFTH FREEDOM is published by The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier, P.O. Box 975 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205. Tel. (716)881-5335

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If you have any comments or contributions, send them to the above address, attn: FIFTH FREEDOM

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The FIFTH FREEDOM is published at 45 Allen Street, Buffalo, N.Y. It has a circulation of 1200 copies which are distributed at no charge.

***** SUBSCRIBE NOW *****

Subscribe to the FIFTH FREEDOM and show your support for the work Mattachine is doing. Send \$4.00 to the FIFTH FREEDOM, c/o Mattachine Society, P.O. Box 975 Ellicott Sta. Buffalo, N.Y. 14205, for one year's subscription. Please make check or money order payable to Mattachine Society.

Judge Joseph Mattina



MATTINA TALKS WITH MATTACHINE

The Mattachine Program Meeting for March 17 featured a lively question and answer session on "Homosexuality and the Law" with guest Joseph Mattina, Erie County Court Justice. Judge Mattina was invited to appear before a Mattachine Meeting by Health Committee Chairman, Jim Haynes who introduced the Judge and acted as master of ceremonies during the question and answer period that was to follow. Jim has appeared before Judge Mattina's classes on Criminal Justice at Buffalo State to talk on Homosexuality.

The session began with a healthy amount of hostility towards the Judge due to his position of influence in straight society. The Judge was confronted by examples of discrimination against gays in the fields of employment and housing. Mattina was sympathetic to their plight but did not fully grasp the extent of discrimination or he could possibly believe that it really doesn't even exist. Mattina suggested that gays work within the 'system' and use the channels provided such as the State Human Rights Commission, the Labor Board, the Erie County Dept. of Social Services, etc. If these organizations that profess to help, do not-he went on, then stronger pressure should be brought against them. Mattina said that "Power is the name of the game"- implying that political tactics should be employed and that other politicians should be made aware of our numbers and should be invited by Mattachine to appear before our meetings.

The Judge made much of the fact that there is an enormous amount of work to be done (by groups such as Mattachine) before gay liberation can be realized. That is probably one statement that we could all agree on.

Judge Mattina was then questioned on the subject of entrapment, "How far does the law protect the police officer?" The Judge responded, "Entrapment turns me off, personall," which sounded a bit condensending to some considering he was addressing nearly a hundred homosexuals. He said that sometimes it was extremely difficult for him to decide how far he must go in following the law in terms of he own sense of right and wrong.

In conclusion, the session with Judge Mattina exposed both the Judge and ourselves to each other's point of view and increased our awareness of the legal ramifications of being homosexual and where that puts us in relation to straight society.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- WED., 4/17, 8PM: Gay Awareness Session, G.C.S.C.,* Everyone Welcome.
9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7
- THURS., 4/18, 8PM: Meeting to Plan Gay Pride Week, G.C.S.C., Please do your part and help!
- FRI., 4/19, 7PM-?: Coffee House G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
- SAT., 4/20, 9PM-1AM: A Dance With Mexican Flavor, Unitarian Hall, Elmwood at W. Ferry. Admission \$1.00, Members 75¢, Late Buffet extra. Beer and Pop 20¢ Everyone Welcome.
- SUN., 4/21, 8PM: "Gay Write-In" at G.C.S.C., to urge State legislators to give their urgent and favorable attention to the pending Gay Rights Bill and the Sodomy Repeal Bill. Please attend.
- MON., 4/22, 8PM: Gay Liberation Front Meeting, Norton Union U.B., Room 234.
11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- TUES., 4/23, 8PM: G.C.S.C. Staff Meeting at the Center.
- WED., 4/24, 8PM: Gay Awareness Session, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7
- FRI., 4/26, 7PM-?: Coffee House G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
- MON., 4/29, 8PM: Gay Liberation Front Meeting, Norton Union, U.B., Room 234.
11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- TUES., 4/30, 8PM: MSNF Board Meeting at G.C.S.C.
- WED., 5/1, 8PM: Gay Awareness Session, G.C.S.C.
9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7
- FRI., 5/3, 10AM: All day conference on the "Legal Status of the Homosexual," SUNYAB Law School, Amherst Campus.
7PM-?: Coffee House, G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome.
- SUN., 5/5, 8PM: Mattachine General Meeting, G.C.S.C.
- MON., 5/6, 8PM: Gay Liberation Front Meeting, Norton Union, U.B., Room 234.
11PM: "Sisters of Sappho" Lesbian Radio Program, WBFO FM 88.7
- WED., 9:30PM: "Stonewall Nation" Radio Program, WBFO-FM 88.7 5/8.
- FRI., 5/10, 7PM-?: Coffee House G.C.S.C., Everyone Welcome
- SAT., 5/11, 9PM-1AM: Mattachine Society Dance with Show by "Claudette and Lillian" Showtime 9:30PM. Admission \$2.00. Beer and Pop Available.

*G.C.S.C.- Gay Community Services Center, 45 Allen Street, Buffalo, New York, 14202, Tel. # (716) 881-5335, 881-5336

LEGAL STATUS OF THE HOMOSEXUAL . . .

..is the title of an all day conference at the U. B. Law School on Friday, May 3rd. Sponsored by the U. B. Student Bar Assoc., the conference will consist of 5 panel discussions with attorneys, law school professors and gay activists taking part. The panels and panelists are:

Legislative Change and Lobbying, 10:00AM. Panelists: Frank Kamery, Nat'l. Gay Task Force; Don Michaels, Mattachine Society; Jim Zais, Gay political activist

Employment Discrimination, 11:00AM. Panelists: Bonnie Strunk, Syra. Attorney; Jim Haynes, Mattachine Society; Dick McGinnis, Mattachine Society; Frank Kamery, Nat'l. Gay Task Force; Jack Hyman, U.B. Law Schl. Prof; Cary Boggan, A.C.L.U.

Students, Civil Rights and Bar Admission, 12:00Noon. Panelists: Howard Mann, U.B. Law School Prof.; Alan Ellis, U.B. Gay Liberation Front; Frank Kamery, Nat'l. Gay Task Force; Bruce Voeller, Nat'l. Gay Task Force Cary Boggan, A.C.L.U.; Bonnie Strunk, Syra. Attorney

Family Law and Property, 2:00PM. Panelists: Bonnie Strunk, Syra. Attay. Barbara Handschu, Buf. Attorney; William Gardner, Buf Attorney; Bruce Voeller, Nat'l. Gay Task Force; Louis Swartz, U.B. Law School Prof. Ken Joyce, U.B. Law School Prof.

Criminal Law, 3:00PM. Panelists: Judge Mattina, County Court; Capt. Kennedy, B.P.D. Vice Squad; Dick Rosche, Buf. Attorney; Don Michaels- Mattachine Society; Bruce Voeller, Nat'l. Gay Task Force; Judge Mazur, City Court; Dan Holley, U.B. Law School Prof.

Summing Up, 4:00PM.

The conference is being offered free and open to the public. For those interested in the potential for change in the legal status of the gay community this promises to be an important educational experience.

The 10AM, 11AM and 12 Noon sessions will be held in the Moot Courtroom at the John Lord O'Brien Hall, U.B. Amherst Campus. the 2PM, 3PM and 4PM sessions will be held in Room 106, John Lord O'Brien Hall. To get to the Amherst Campus, take Youngmann Hwy. to the Millersport Hwy. North exit. Take Millersport Hwy. past Maple Rd. and turn left onto the Campus.

For further information, contact Shelley Taylor Convisser at 688-9126.

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MATTACHINE TACKLES DISCRIMINATION

The Vocations and Housing Committee of M.N.S.F. has prepared an employment discrimination and housing discrimination questionnaire to be mailed to local business and rental firms. This two page questionnaire designed to gauge the extent and forms of discrimination against persons of all sexual orientations will reach an estimated 150 area employers and renters. Positive responses will be followed with an acknowledgement letter and continued mutual cooperation to insure fair treatment of all persons. All negative and non-responses will be followed by a visitation of at least two persons of the gay community to discuss that firm's policies.

It is our hope that an in-depth assessment of equal opportunity in these two areas will aide us in our push toward social and legal change. ANYONE wishing to assist with 'paper work' or eventual firm visitations is asked to attend the Vocations and Housing meeting at the G.C.S.C., 45 Allen on Friday April 19th at 7:30PM. Any interested member of the Buffalo gay community is encouraged to attend.

ROCHESTER GAY CENTER RELOCATES

Rochester's Gay Alliance has moved to a new location. On April 1, the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley moved into the second floor of the Genesee Co-op Building, 713 Monroe Ave. The new location provides better facilities for the group and is nearer to a 'gay ghetto' area of Rochester. The building also houses a number of cooperative shops, as well as the Gay Revolution of Women. The organization's news letter, "The Empty Closet," describes the new location as offering the Rochester Gay Community "a center for social and movement activity which should be convenient to a large number of gays."

We urge those of you who visit Rochester to drop in on our friends at GACV and let them know we share their enthusiasm in their new Center and wish them continued success.

GOING TO SYRACUSE?

Caution seems to be in order if you are. Rochester's "Empty Closet" warns us of the following: "Syracuse police are beginning to practice entrapment in bars and theaters ...caution should be observed when cruising Warren Street."

ATTENTION - MICHAEL WALTER

We have a package for you from Minneapolis - please contact Don Michaels at Gay Community Center.



MATTACHINE presents

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Saturday, APRIL 20th

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Food: chile and green salad

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GAY PRIDE WEEK '74

Buffalo's Gay Pride Week will be celebrated this year from June 16th through June 23rd. The past two years we've had outstanding Gay Pride Weeks with highly successful events during the entire week. This year will be no exception. We are eagerly seeking all the good help we can get this year in planning and carrying out everything that's involved in getting it all together. On Thursday, April 18th at 8PM we are having our first Gay Pride Week Committee meeting at the Gay Community Center. If you have constructive input and want to lend your ideas and help, please be there. If you can't actively participate, please seriously consider a \$\$\$\$\$ donation. It takes a considerable amount of money to fund GPW activities and neither Mattachine nor GLF can absorb the entire expense from their meager treasuries. We urge you to contribute by sending your check or money order to M.S.N.F., P.O. Box 975, Ellicott Sta., Bflo, N.Y., 14205. Make Checks/money orders out to 'Gay Pride Week c/o Mattachine Society.' Support Gay Pride Week- It's good for all of us.

PLUS*****

New York City will be celebrating Gay Pride Week June 24th through the 30th. Celebrate with us the week before, then catch at least part of the events in the City during their week-it's always a trip! Imagine

2 'gay' weeks of celebration-dig it!
We'll have more detailed GPW info in future issues.

POLITICAL NOTES CON'T (from p. 13)

Legislators do respond to mail from their constituents and it's vital that we let them know how we feel. We're also inviting several local Senators and Assemblymen to attend and rap about their positions on our bills. (we won't promise they'll show up!) JOIN US - Sunday, April 21st, 8PM at the Gay Community Center for our 2nd annual 'WRITE-IN'.

GORE VIDAL ATTACKS "FALSE MACHISMO"

"Most of the evil the U.S. has done in the world," says Gore Vidal "Comes from the false machismo of our fat, flabby 'straight' men with their hard, cold, efficient guns."

Vidal made the comment in a letter agreeing with the anti-"straight" monthly, Straight to Hell - The American Journal of Revenge Therapy

Vidal called the paper "fascinating," "cock-raising," and "enormously useful."

The paper is sold by subscription. The address is: Box 982, Radio City Station, N.Y.C. 10019.

-from NYSCGO NEWSLETTER, Mar-Apr '74

FULL PAGE
COMPLIMENTS
OF YOUR
FAVORITE
NIGHT SPOT

SPEAKING OUT!

Mattachine's Speakers' Bureau is one of the busiest parts of the organization. To give you an idea of just how busy it is and how diversified our speaking engagements are, here is a sampling of some recent speaking engagements:

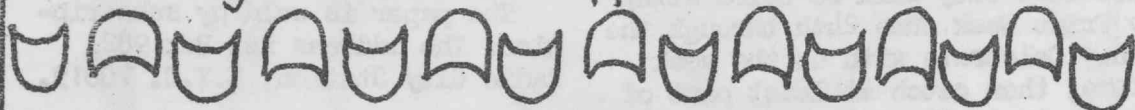
- *SUNYAB Medical School Class on Human Sexuality.
- *Canisius College Sociology Class.
- *Police Dept. Trainees Course.
- *West Side Counseling Center Marathon.
- *Prebyterian Women's Club.

FIFTH FREEDOM STAFF MEETING
WEDNESDAY, EVENING APRIL 24.
STAFF MEMBERS SHOULD BRING
ALL PERTINENT MATERIALS.
8PM

We're constantly getting requests from various groups, organizations, schools, etc. for gay people to speak. We urge your participation. You DON'T need public speaking skills. Contact Claude Gary at the Gay Community Ctr. for more details.

coming out is hard

we need your financial support to make it easier



send a donation to the Gay Community Center

POLITICAL NOTES - State and Local

ALBANY STILL TUNING US OUT: This year, as in past years, the New York State Coalition of Gay Organizations has been actively pushing gay rights through the pursuit of legislative change. In committee at the present time-in both the Senate and Assembly-is a sodomy repeal bill and a gay rights bill. NYSCGO lobbyist Barbara Gaines (veteran of the Manhattan Women's Political Caucus and an upfront lesbian activist) worked hard through the month of March to put the case of gay rights before members of the legislature. The latest issue of the NYSCGO newsletter describes Barbara's efforts: "She worked to get 'sexual orientation' added to an anti-discrimination bill to amend the state constitution, which only covered sex and marital status. She was hard at work trying to have a legislative committee kill a bill that would give the Secretary of State the right to rule on the tastefulness of the names of proposed corporations, a bill which grew out of his losing attempt to refuse incorporation to GAA (NYC) because the word gay offended him. And she gained some powerful friends for NYSCGO-backed legislation."

As it stands now, both bills will no doubt find their way to the Rules Committee (clearing house for all bills in the legislative bodies) before further action can be considered. In order to be put before the legislature for a vote, the bills will have to be reported out of the Rules Committee--and that is up to the discretion of the Rules Committee members. **PROGNOSIS:** The way it looks now, the Sodomy Repeal bill will languish in the Rules Committee and stands very little chance of being 'reported out' for a floor vote. There is a small ray of hope that the Gay Rights bill may reach the floor for a vote, but it is generally expected not to pass this year. However, if the Rights bill does reach the floor for a vote, this will be a sign of considerable progress in the legislative efforts of NYSCGO.

GAY WRITE-IN

What can be done to turn the legislator's attention to our concern about these bills is a concerted local effort. In conjunction with the NYSCGO legislative effort, Mattachine is having a "GAY WRITE-IN" at the Gay Community Center, Sunday night, April 21st at 8PM. We're going to write to our local State Senators and Assemblymen urging them to give the Sodomy Repeal and the Gay Rights Bill their urgent and favorable attention. You are strongly urged to join us in this effort. We will have paper, pens and all the necessary information for writing--just bring yourself and friends. This is important! (Continued on page 11)

The Following poetry was submitted to the FIFTH FREEDOM by Richard McGinnis from a book of "Haiku" entitled "MARKINGS" by Dag Hammarskjöld. "Haiku," is 17 syllable poetry usually divided into three lines. Each three line segment is a separate poem. Richard has arranged these poems into what he feels is a progressive 'story' line. This is the first segment in a continuous series totalling 30 Haiku. They were not specifically written as gay poetry.

"Haiku" by Dag Hammarskjöld

On the drawing-room table
The book became soiled.
And the text was lost.

A warm autumn night. A moon
Lighting this path-
Far away a heart stops.

He fell from the rock ledge
When, too scared to walk upright.
He tried to crawl.

Denied any outlet,
The heat transmuted
The coal into diamonds.

School was over. The yard was empty
The ones he sought
Had found new friends.

He wasn't wanted.
When, nonetheless, he came,
He could only watch them play.

He fell when he tried to vault.
They all had their laugh.
At such a sissy.

A box on the ear taught the boy
That Father's name
Was odious to them.

His moral lecture
Blazed with hate.
What could have driven a child
that far?

My home drove me
Into the wilderness.
Few look for me. Few hear me.

The boy in the forest
Throws off his best Sunday suit
And plays naked.

In the bare poplar a voice
Of such well-being
It burst space open.

In the Stone Age night
A church spire, erect on the plain
Like a phallus.

He lowered his eyes,
Lest he should see the body
To lust after it.

Alone in his secret growth,
He found a kinship
With all growing things.

Honeysuckle.
In a gray twilight
His sensuality awoke.

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and
Lillian



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